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TO AMEMBASSY BOMH PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

SECRET STATE 319520

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PAFF, MASS, GF, CH

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON CHINESE MISSILE SALES

REF: BOMH 32165

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ANTICIPATING FM GENSCHER'S UPCOMING VISIT TO CHINA, EMBASSY MAY USE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH PRC OFFICIALS WHEN PRESENTING US VIEWS ON CHINESE MISSILE SALES. SEPTTEL CONTAINS ADDITIONAL POINTS FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION.

3. BEGIN TALKING POINTS:

--CHINA'S SALE OF CSS-2 IRBM'S TO SAUDI ARABIA HIGHLIGHTED THE NECESSITY TO WORK TO ACHIEVE STRONGER CURBS ON THE TRANSFER OF BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEMS AND COMPONENT TECHNOLOGY. AS PART OF OUR EFFORT, WE HAVE STRESSED TO THE CHINESE OUR CONCERN OVER THE DESTABILIZING NATURE OF TRANSFERS OF THIS TYPE OF WEAPONS SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY TO VOLATILE REGIONS SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA.

--DURING SECRETARY SHULTZ' JULY TRIP TO BEIJING, HE URGED THE CHINESE TO ENGAGE IN A SERIOUS DIALOGUE DESIGNED TO CURB THE PROLIFERATION OF BALLISTIC MISSILES. HE NOTED IT WAS IRONIC THAT AT A TIME WHEN WE HAD AGREED WITH THE SOVIETS TO ELIMINATE MISSILES IN THE 500-5500 KILOMETER RANGE UNDER THE INF, CHINA HAD IN AT LEAST ONE INSTANCE SOLD THIS SORT OF WEAPON.

--ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY DIRECTOR BURNS FOLLOWED UP ON THE SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS DURING HIS VISIT TO CHINA IN AUGUST. DIRECTOR BURNS STRESSED THE DESTABILIZING NATURE OF THIS TYPE OF WEAPONS SYSTEM AND SUGGESTED THAT THE PRC CONSIDER EXERCISING RESTRAINT ON TRANSFER OF SUCH MISSILES.

--IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY SHULTZ AND DIRECTOR BURNS, PRC LEADERS SAID

"IN CONVERSATIONS WITH SECRETARY CARLUCCI, SENIOR CHINESE LEADERS ELABORATED ON CHINA'S POLICY OF MILITARY SALES AND BALLISTIC MISSILE SALES IN PARTICULAR. AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS MEETINGS IN BEIJING, SECRETARY CARLUCCI SAID THAT HE WAS FULLY SATISFIED WITH THE CHINESE LEADERS' DESCRIPTION OF THEIR POLICY AND THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THESE HAD BEEN THE BEST DISCUSSIONS THAT WE HAVE HAD WITH THE CHINESE ON THIS ISSUE. WE SHARE SECRETARY CARLUCCI'S VIEW THAT THE CHINESE CHARACTERIZATION OF THEIR POLICY WAS CONSTRUCTIVE AND HIS EXPECTATION THAT THE CHINESE WILL BEHAVE IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY IN THE FUTURE CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES THEY OUTLINED TO SECRETARY SHULTZ AND DIRECTOR BURNS.

--WE WILL CONTINUE TO URGE THE PRC AND OTHERS TO COOPERATE IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CURB THE PROLIFERATION OF BALLISTIC MISSILES. A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO RAISED THEIR CONCERNS OVER THIS PROBLEM WITH THE PRC. WE BELIEVE YOUR DISCUSSIONS THIS ISSUE WITH PRC LEADERS DURING FOREIGN MINISTER BURNS' DISTRICT GENSCHER'S VISIT TO CHINA IN LATE OCTOBER WILL BE VERY BENEFICIAL. WHITERHEAD

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